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PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 046601-5077

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#3
3-8-01

In re Application of:

Hitoshi OKAMOTO

Application No.: 09/716,445

Filed: November 21, 2000

For: IMAGE DATA STORING DEVICE AND
IMAGE DATA SORTING METHOD



Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each of the listed documents is enclosed. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Japanese Hei 7-160844 is discussed on pages 1 and 2 of the specification. Japanese Hei 10-198683 is discussed on pages 2 and 3 of the specification. An English Abstract is provided for Japanese Hei 8-249467, Hei 9-138804, Hei 11-203461, and Hei 2000-76281.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

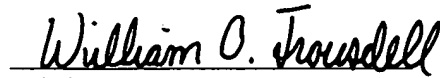
Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. §1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.

50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR
EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated: January 30, 2001



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